

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1) A system for providing streaming fine granular scalability coded video data, comprising:
a server for sending fine granular scalability coded video data into a data network through a plurality of channels;
a receiver having a first network analyzer that perceives network congestion conditions of the data network at the receiver, and dynamically modifies subscriptions to a predetermined number of the plurality of the channels based on the perceived congestion conditions of the data network at the receiver; and
an adaptive node having a second network analyzer that accounts for the number of the channels subscribed to by the receiver.
- 2) A system of claim 1 wherein the adaptive node further comprises a mass data store capable of buffering data.
- 3) The system of claim 1 wherein the adaptive node comprises a plurality of adaptive nodes, wherein at least one of the plurality of adaptive nodes is upstream of at least one other of the plurality of adaptive nodes.
- 4) The system of claim 1 wherein the second network analyzer merges channel control signals received from other receivers and forwards the merged channel control signals to an upstream peer in order to dynamically modify transmission of the subscribed channels to the receiver.

- 5) The system of claim 4 wherein the upstream peer comprises the server.
- 6) The system of claim 1 wherein the receiver is a plurality of receivers.
- 7) A method for streaming fine granular scalability coded video data, comprising:
providing a server for sending fine granular scalability coded video data into a data network through a plurality of channels;
perceiving network congestion conditions of the data network at a receiver;
dynamically modifying subscriptions to a predetermined number of the plurality of the channels based on the perceived congestion conditions of the data network at the receiver;
accounting for the number of the channels subscribed to by the receiver at an adaptive node.
- 8) A method for transmitting streaming fine granular scalability coded video data, comprising:
 - a. disposing an adaptive node logically intermediate a server and a receiver in a data network;
 - b. initiating communication between the server and the receiver over the data network logically through the adaptive node;
 - c. subscribing to one or more channels by the receiver based on network capacity as perceived by the receiver, each channel corresponding to a predetermined data

layer of a plurality of data layers comprising the streaming fine granular scalability coded video data available at the server;

- d. initiating end-to-end communication channels between the server and the receiver over the data network for each subscribed channel logically through the adaptive node;
- e. recognizing by the adaptive node of the channels subscribed to by receivers downstream of the adaptive node operatively disposed intermediate the server and the receiver;
- f. sending a predetermined number of data layers of the plurality of data layers by the server into the data network via their respective channels;
- g. monitoring of the network capacity by the receiver at the receiver;
- h. monitoring of the network capacity at the adaptive node by the adaptive node;
- i. modifying transmission of the subscribed channels at the receiver based on network capacity as perceived by the receiver; and
- j. modifying transmission of the subscribed channels through the adaptive node to the receiver based on network capacity as perceived by the adaptive node.

9) The method of claim 8, wherein step (c) further comprises:

- a. coding a portion of the streaming fine granular scalability coded video data to produce a base layer frame;
- b. generating a motion compensated residual image from the streaming fine granular scalability coded video data and the base layer frame using a fine granular coding technique; and

- c. generating an enhancement layer using the motion compensated residual images, the enhancement layer comprising a plurality of layers, each layer comprising a portion of the motion compensated residual images.
- 10) The method of claim 8 further comprising buffering the base layer frame and the enhancement layer at the adaptive node.
- 11) The method of claim 9 wherein the buffering further comprises:
- a. requesting retransmissions from an upstream node; and
 - b. responding to retransmission requests from a downstream node.
- 12) The method of claim 8 further comprising:
- a. receiving layer data at a first rate from an upstream source of data; and
 - b. forwarding the layer data at a second rate to a downstream receiver of the data.
- 13) The method of claim 8 wherein the adaptive node handles a subscription request of a client disposed logically downstream of the adaptive node.
- 14) The method of claim 13 wherein the client comprises at least one of a receiver and a second adaptive node.
- 15) The method of claim 13, wherein the handling comprises:
- a. receiving a subscription request from the receiver at the adaptive node;

- b. calculating a maximum subscription level by the adaptive node; and
 - c. propagating the maximum subscription level by the adaptive node to a next peer upstream.
- 16) An adaptive node for use in a streaming video data system, comprising:
- a. a data communications interface for operatively connecting to a data network;
 - b. a network analyzer for:
 - i. perceiving network congestion conditions of the data network at the adaptive node; and
 - ii. based on the perceived network congestion conditions, dynamically modifying transmission of data channels from a source of data channels disposed logically upstream of the adaptive node to a client logically disposed downstream of the adaptive node.
- 17) The adaptive node of claim 16 further comprising a buffer.
- 18) The adaptive node of claim 17 wherein the buffer comprises a mass data storage device.
- 19) The adaptive node of claim 16 wherein the adaptive node is capable of at least one of receiving requests from a downstream receiver, selectively forwarding requests upstream, receiving data from upstream sources, and selectively forwarding data downstream.

20) The adaptive node of claim 16 wherein the client comprises at least one of a receiver and an adaptive node.